

An open letter to all Administrators, Faculty, and Staff of Brookfield Public Schools:

On behalf of the Brookfield Board of Education, I would like to express the most heartfelt gratitude to all administration, faculty, and staff for your tireless efforts in managing this crisis and getting quality distance learning functioning in such a short amount of time. As your work continues, we know it is you that makes the strength of Brookfield Public Schools so apparent.

Through social media and personal notes, we have heard from countless parents who are not only appreciative of the continuity of their children's education but also for the friendly ease at which it is all presented. We know this was no simple feat.

The loss of students' direct access to their teachers and service providers is the most obvious void created by this long closure but the personal touches and the ways in which you, those teachers and service providers, welcomed our Brookfield school family into your own homes and lives through video and messages provided students and parents with familiarity and positivity at a time when both are needed most. The impact of this can't be overstated. Seeing some of you with your pets and children vividly reminds us all that aside from supporting our students, you too have your own families that need care, obligations that need attention, and schedules that have changed drastically. Nevertheless, your dedication to maintaining a connection is sincerely felt by your students and is the most necessary quality of a good educator.

The Board of Education recognizes that our curriculum has been re-designed over several years, not days, and was not primarily intended to be delivered digitally. The leadership that was first required to build our quality curriculum was, and continues to be, put to a great test but we could not be more proud of the tenacity our Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Principals, Technology Director, and Department & Building Leaders have demonstrated. A town and its residents may look to its school district for the security of stability during a time of crisis and confusion. In this way, the compassionate leadership you've shown is undoubtedly a model to follow. Your guidance and communication during this chaotic and unsettling time have been the reason we have confidence enough to weather the storm.

Creating technical infrastructure, organizing personnel, managing ongoing business operations, providing community outreach, and maintaining the health and safety of our buildings have been and will continue to be absolutely critical to our successful navigation of these unprecedented times. Your willingness to triage your departments' work over longer and more difficult hours is so greatly appreciated and has become the foundation on which we can not only assure experiences now but can also grow and adapt practices in the future.

Needless to say again, the Board is extremely proud of all the professionals that make up the Brookfield Public School system. During this period that devolved quickly and leaves so many feeling helpless, your focus and steadfastness have provided more calm and unity to this town than you could know and for that we truly are thankful.

Best,

Rosa Fernandes
Brookfield Board of Education, Chair